

Central Park's Easter Flower Show

Treat To-day for the Public in the Big Greenhouses—The Burst of Bloom the Result of Much Hard Work

On Easter Sunday, as well as the two days preceding, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the city makes special efforts to provide a memorable display of flowers and foliage in the big greenhouses near the entrance of the Park at 102d street. Few of the many thousands who visit them at this time have any idea of the amount of care and thought expended on the display.

Never has a season passed when greater care has been taken to make the flower show worth seeing than this year. But the gardeners will tell you rather dolefully that there is one serious lack—the opportunity to do original work of the kind that has made Luther Burbank famous. On the other hand there are certain compensations, if you like to view them in that light. Thus a foreman draws toward him the full white disk of a great magnolia.

"See," and he points to the double flare of petals. "This is one of the latest addi-

tion of the beds completely to keep out the rays of the sun, while in other places the acaas are kept closed so as to increase the supply of heat.

The goniatas, which finally flower in great masses of yellow bloom, make a golden fret along the walls, and below them acaas are starred with the cyclamens of many colors. Here and there a great red eye peers out—that of the anemone.

Every once in a while the chirp of a sparrow willfully imprisoned by its own cleverness in the greenhouse is heard and the gardener shakes his head dolefully.

"The pecky things will get in spite of us, build their nests and break off the leaves and flowers," he says.

But all the visitors cannot share that point of view, for amid the flowers birds seem appropriate.

Then suddenly a door is opened and



THEY WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE BANANA TREE IS.

without warning you step into a tropical country, where immense palms rise, shutting out the sky, where mosses are spread like a carpet under foot and the air is moist and warm. There is an enormous banana tree reaching up almost to the top of the conservatory, which is fifty feet in height. The stately royal palm and the cocoanut tree with each other as to which shall reach the topmost point. At the entrance are coffee trees with white blossoms and everywhere ferns spring up.

Curiosities of vegetation are pointed out—the bottle brush, which looks like a chimney cleaner; the monkey fern, which may have been snipped along its edges by the scissors of an enterprising ape. There are whole beds of sensitive plants.

"What will the Easter crowds ask to see?" repeats the guide. "I know just as well as if I had heard them. After they look at the lilies and the other Easter blooms—they always go there first—they want to see how things grow that they eat."

"There will be thousands of people that will stare at the bunch of bananas up near the sky, and just as many look at the coffee berries and the date palms. That's what gets the crowd every time. They'll pass by wonderful leaves and all those strange parasites, but they won't forget to ask about the food products."

The orchid house, it is very plain to see, is the centre of attraction to the greenhouse workers.

"I don't believe," says the guide, "that

the majority of the Easter crowds realize what it means to have this collection of orchids. The finding of orchids is a profession followed by only a few men on account of its danger and its uncertainty. The expense takes them out of the class of those with moderate incomes. Added

In answer to a very natural question, the guide hesitates a moment and then says: "Living day by day, with every possible variety of flower as we do here, you want to know which I think is the most beautiful flower in creation, and I say that the choice



RAISED IN NEW YORK.

to this, there is a certain unconscious about them which prevents their widespread popularity. Many people contend that the sight of an orchid gives them an impression like that received from a reptile. When you consider the strange places where many of them are found it is not to be wondered at.

"For example, I know of one collector who was sent to Central America and spent months looking for a certain variety of orchid. It was discovered finally in an old graveyard where a good many of the French workers on the canal had been buried. It is said that they were actually growing out of the skulls."

"Naturally the orchids seen in the florists' windows in New York and here in the public greenhouses are the ordinary specimens, comparatively cheap, but beautiful in color and form. The others are only to be owned by collectors."

lies between the orchid and the rose. Looking at it from one point of view, the rose has every quality that is needed for perfection. "It has the beauty of form and color, it is fragrant and it is generous in its giving. But when you know the orchid, you realize that there is a certain quality there that the rose and all other flowers do not possess—what in a human being might be called fascination—and that has nothing to do with beauty and cannot even be described."

The guide has taken the visitor now to the door of the greenhouse and makes a few farewell remarks.



HAVING PLANTS TO MAKE EASTER FLOWERS.

"Rubber plants!" and he points contemptuously to a group whose leaves are tapping the glass. "Do you know that rubber plants are about all we have given to us here? You see after a while the rubber plant outgrows the dimensions of the room, and the rubber plant is a nuisance. We have more than we know what to do with."

THE CHOICE OF A HUSBAND.

FREEDOM OF THE MODERN ENGLISH GIRL.

Contrasting Present Customs With Those of Last Century—Passing of the Chaperon—Opportunities for Getting Acquainted—Changes Wrought by Auto.

The literary reader may remark, "Girls cannot choose. It is the man who selects a wife." Girls know better. They can, and they do, make their own choice among the men who are attracted to them. And girls of the world do classes have probably more frequent opportunities of studying their male acquaintances than any of their predecessors throughout the ages of the world.

In the time of Leech, writes Mrs. Humphry in the London Daily Chronicle, the ballroom was almost the only place in which young men and women could improve their knowledge of each other. There followed, in the case of captivated fancy, the formal call, a terrible experience for the would-be suitor, with all the family sitting round, the other sisters all eyes and ears. The pious of those days occasionally proved useful to two persons who liked to enjoy each other's society in solitude, and when croquet came into fashion it afforded a reason for gatherings. Usually the lovers played so indifferently and became such a nuisance to the other players that they were dismissed from the game, and had no difficulty in finding themselves tête-à-tête.

This poverty of opportunity was often aided out by walks that were "not exactly" prearranged, and it was permitted to a young man, even if he had not yet declared himself, to wait at the church door after morning service on Sunday and carry home his lady's prayer book.

How different it all is now! The careful chaperon finds her occupation gone. The bicycle gave her the first intimation that she was becoming out of date, and the freedom that girls enjoy nowadays has indured her compe. This freedom is all on the side of wisdom. The girl of to-day may boat, golf, play tennis and croquet, ride, drive, walk, dance and talk as much as she pleases with the young men who have been introduced to her. And it is well that it should be so. How can a choice be made that is without opportunities for comparison? The more male acquaintances a girl has the wider is her field of choice.

The old-fashioned, secluded life in which daughters were kept robbed of self reliance, of confidence in their own judgment, they knew but few men intimately, and the results were not always happy. How could a man gain any real knowledge of a young woman's real character and

disposition when he scarcely ever saw her except in the bosom of her family?

There may be something of the free and easy in the modern intercourse between young people. It is a natural reaction on the part of the young woman, after centuries of restriction and chaperonage. Cases of such other. There followed, in the case of captivated fancy, the formal call, a terrible experience for the would-be suitor, with all the family sitting round, the other sisters all eyes and ears. The pious of those days occasionally proved useful to two persons who liked to enjoy each other's society in solitude, and when croquet came into fashion it afforded a reason for gatherings. Usually the lovers played so indifferently and became such a nuisance to the other players that they were dismissed from the game, and had no difficulty in finding themselves tête-à-tête.

But these are trifling things and will amend themselves. The real thing is that a girl can now look about her and choose for herself. The man of her selection may possibly not respond, but at least she has had the chance of finding out what she does not like. A little word, a look, is sometimes enough to enlighten her as to the character of the man behind the mask, and to warn her against what would be a fatal mistake. And in the same way she sees men in circumstances that elicit their character, and prove their unfitness. The drawing room girl of Leech's days had hardly ever such opportunities as these. She did not spend a long hour with her companions waiting for a visitor, as a look on the Thames, and thereby apply a gauge to the capacity for patience of each male acquaintance. There followed, in the case of captivated fancy, the formal call, a terrible experience for the would-be suitor, with all the family sitting round, the other sisters all eyes and ears. The pious of those days occasionally proved useful to two persons who liked to enjoy each other's society in solitude, and when croquet came into fashion it afforded a reason for gatherings. Usually the lovers played so indifferently and became such a nuisance to the other players that they were dismissed from the game, and had no difficulty in finding themselves tête-à-tête.

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point is excellent: "Do not marry for money, but go where money is." Neither riches nor poverty is the prayer of the wise. The rich man usually finds that he has a worse enemy to domestic peace than idleness.

Each girl has her own ideal of a possible husband, and each has her own standard. There are many standards, but the standard men merely an abundance of this world's goods. That suffices. The romantic school must, however, dream of a lover in good looks and superlative clothes. And many mature women remain schoolgirls at heart through decades of disillusioning years. One knows not whether to pity or to envy them.

For the girl whose intellect is awake and in development there is a very different standard. She is not likely to choose a life partner merely because he is amusing and dances well; nor even because he is good natured and thinks with her on many points. There must be some depth of thought in him, some force of character, some suggestion of the spiritual as distinct from the material. He is not to be chosen in a day, such a man as this, but there is no greater pleasure than that of gradually learning the individuality of a nature that responds to our own, whose ideas are congenial with our own and with whom we find ourselves in such perfect accord of thought and feeling as to justify the old conceit of twin souls sent forth to seek each other in the world. This high ideal is sometimes, but not often, realized. There are girls who, retaining the independent position to which women have attained, remain unmarried rather than decline from their standard of what marriage ought to be.

But, on the other hand, there are thousands of girls who would marry any man rather than endure what they consider the humiliation of spinsterhood. It is less the girl's fault than that of her environment. The old idea that matrimony is the goal of every woman is gradually disappearing, but it still lingers in many a section of society, and men are accepted for what they can give, not because of what they are.

SOFT DRINKS IN JAMAICA.

Matrimony and Snowballs—A Dash of Rum in Most Things.

Jamaica cafés are popular because of the excellent coffee there served. Seating yourself at a table, says *Walt to Eat*, you are soon greeted by a tidily attired brown-skinned maid wearing a white apron and a little household cap perched jauntily on her well-combed glossy hair.

"Morning, lady! Coffee, please?" are her words of greeting.

As served in Jamaica is also excellent, but it is brewed very strong. It shares the honors with the native cocoa as a breakfast beverage, as coffee is not served at that meal save at the American hotel on the island.

Tea in the banks just before the hour of closing. "Matrimony" is one of the choicest of Jamaica's native drinks. This "matrimony" is often a much more agreeable affair than is the rainbow pulp of the star apple, and will sometimes bear the test of mental endurance much better. It is compounded of the rainbow pulp of the star apple, and will sometimes bear the test of mental endurance much better.

Nature herself has provided a beverage which needs no mixing and certainly excels the "milk of human kindness." It is the milk in the water cocoanut. It is a food as well as beverage. The cart driven through the streets by the quaint old darkey of a native donkey is an interesting sight.

You will be amazed at the dextrous manner in which the vendor cradles the native cart covered with a roof, with bottles arranged around the open sides which are filled with flavored syrups, a small quantity of which is poured into a glass filled with shaved ice. In a moment you have the only "snowball" ever seen in this country.

The little carts rejoice in such names as "One Little Jewel," "The Little Pilgrim," &c., which are painted in bright colors on the sides. "Come like a butterfly and see a confectioner (or a nurse) in the house," is the cry of the vendor, as he lazily pushes his cart along the brick paved streets.

The native kola wine is delicious when poured over cracked ice, and proves a most refreshing drink. Rum and kola is another greatly prized drink of the island, and there is a tradition here that this beverage is a direct descendant of the ambrosia served the gods and goddesses at their Olympian revels.

Trap for the Saloon Keepers.

From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

"Saloon keepers in Frederick, Md., are looking up their records," said Robert Wester of Pittsburgh. "The anti-saloon league of that town has been busy within the last few years and this country has been a law passed by the Maryland Legislature which may result in cleaning out all saloons in Frederick county. The real import of the bill was only recently discovered by the saloon men. It is that saloons must be located within sixty feet of a church or school. No objection was found with that provision. Another section directs that nine freemen, living in the vicinity of the location where a saloon is to be located, must be sworn in as a jury, who must have been convicted of any crime or misdemeanor within the last five years. The law has been passed and the saloon men are in a panic. They are now looking for a way to get out of the law."

Tea is also served at lunch and at 5 o'clock, as the English woman, as well as man, cannot exist without that time honored custom, at which daily function the bits of gossip gleaned during the day are discussed. Indeed, it is the custom to serve

THE JUNIOR CLERK'S COURTING

Romance of 'Olloway Road Confided to the Office Boy.

BY EDWIN PUGH.

The small office boy, with the infinitesimal nose made temporarily visible by a smudge of ink, desisted from his occupation of cracking Brazil nuts in the copying press and regarded the very junior clerk with grave solicitude.

"I say, Jimmy, what's up?" he asked. "You got a face on you this mornin' like a farden kite. Ain't bin an' lost nothing, 'ave you?"

Jimmy sighed.

"Only my 'art, ole man," he said, sentimentally.

"Come again."

"I'm in love," the other explained, with a blush.

"Takin' anything for it?"

"I was thinkin' o' prussic acid," said the very junior clerk.

"Last time I was in love," mused the office boy, "I thought of a fourpenny button-hole. But p'raps you're wise."

"You!" scornfully. "Why you're only a kid as yet."

"So kids are always tellin' me," was the rejoinder.

The very junior clerk started from his posture of laudatorial indifference to mundane things, and looked exceedingly ferocious.

"If you're goin' to be funny," he said, "I'm afraid I'll 'ave to wallopp you."

"Quite right to be afraid," remarked the office boy. Then, as the other reached for a ruler, he added, hastily: "But I do sympathize wi' you; really, ole man. I was meanly tryin' to cheer you up. Only you're so 'asty."

"Her name," said Jimmy, somewhat appeased, "is Emma Smith."

"Never mind," said the office boy.

"What d' you mean?"

"I was thinkin', p'raps, you might get her to change it. She'd still be Emma, though, of course," he reflected, moodily.

"There's worse names 'n Emma," said the very junior clerk.

"I've been called worse myself," the office boy admitted, frankly.

"We met," quoth the lovelorn one, dramatically, "in the 'Olloway road. I'd got the fair pip. Hadn't the faintest idea 'ow I was goin' to spend my evenin'—'avin' nothing else to spend."

"Friday, I suppose?"

"Friday's such an unlucky day—for those who happen to be paid weekly."

"Still, I remember them," said the very junior clerk, "when I've had as much as a tanner on a Friday before now."

"I've 'ad as little as sixpence myself," said the office boy.

"Well, as I say, I was moochin' about in the 'Olloway road, with a cigar in my mouth, that I didn't like to light, because it was my last, when I saw her mauntering along just in front o' me. I liked the look of her at once, though mind you I 'adn't seen her face and for all I know she might have been quite plain and as old as old."

"Ow old is that?" asked the office boy.

"Twenty, say."

"Women ain't really old at 20, though," objected the office boy. "Why, I've known some 25 or 26 even, as reckoned themselves quite young."

"She," said the very junior clerk, "was just the sensible age."

"When?"

"I mean she's just the sensible age now."

"Never knew they 'ad a sensible age," remarked the office boy, musingly.

"I crossed the road," Jimmy went on, ignoring the gibe, quite properly, "and scooted down the other side o' the way, and then crossed over again and came back. That brought us face to face. And the moment I set eyes on her I knew it was all over."

"What! Before it 'ad begun?"

"All over wi' me, fathead! She'd-I mean she has—got one o' those faces that grow on a feller."

"As a picture."

"Pity one never grew on you. Though I've seen pictures," hurriedly, "that was almost like life, so ugly they were."

"I rose my 'at," said the very junior clerk, "and bowed. She smiled."

"I 'spose it was your thinkin' you'd got a topper on 'stead o' a cap made her laugh?"

"I said 'smiled.' An' I did 'ave my topper on, as it happens. I went up to her and said, 'Good evenin', miss.'"

"I must remember them words; they'll be useful."

"She said: 'I don't think I know you, sir.' I said: 'No, that's a pleasure in store.'"

"She understood. She isn't a fool, like you."

"Fools never are like me," said the office boy.

"And then I said, 'May I see you 'ome, miss?' I tell you, she was all in a flutter."

"P'raps the poor girl didn't want to go 'ome."

"Oh, you always open the ball like that. You must say something. You can't stand mum like an imbecile and expect to get on."

"Though it has been done," said the office boy.

"An' then, in less than 'alf o' no time," the very junior clerk went on, "there we were, chatting away together like two old friends. Ah, I've never cottoned to a girl as I cottoned to Emma, some'ow. There was another girl with her by the way."

"There always is."

"She's jolly pretty though," said Jimmy.

"No is!"

"The other girl."

"Well, after all, what's looks?" said the office boy. "So long as you think your Emma's all right—"

"I don't see what you're drivin' at!"

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WRITE FOR CHROMO OF MALT TONIC GIRL FREE.

"You said the other girl was pretty."

"Well, then," rejoined the office boy, "that means Emma ain't."

"It don't mean nothing," the kind, "but they can't both be pretty, y' know."

"Why can't they?"

"Cos they never are."

"I don't see why they shouldn't be."

"Cos they're ugly 'cos she wants it all her own way—quite naturally. An' the ugly girl goes wi' the pretty girl in case the feller comes along an' then she'll get what's left over."

"Well, both o' these are pretty. They—"

"Ow d' you know?" superciliously.

"Ain't I got eyes?"

"Only for Emma, ole man, I should 'ope," said the office boy, reprovingly. "But I don't care a bit what you say, 'cos you're wrong."

"If both o' 'em are good lookin' they're absolutely bound to 'ave a row fore long."

"They're quite different styles. Quite different; Emma's fair, while Daisy's dark. But you ought to see Daisy an' judge for yourself."

"I don't think it'd do me any permanent good to see 'em."

"You for that? I don't fancy dark girls much."

"Well, p'raps she ain't so very dark. The light wasn't all it might 'ave been."

"P'raps she ain't so very pretty, either. Was it foggy at all?"

"No. Beautiful night."

"What was the matter wi' the 'lectro-light, then?"

"Nothing, as I know of."

"But didn't you tell me the light was bad?"

"It was like this," Jimmy explained, "I was so taken up with Emma, ole man, I 'ardly noticed Daisy."

"You noticed she was pretty, though?"

"Couldn't 'elp noticin' that."

"Sure you ain't been an' froze on to the wrong girl, Jimmy?"

"No, nothin' o' the kind, an' that ain't two," the very junior clerk replied. "You'd like Daisy if you saw her."

"Well, you make me see her, sometimes. But 'ow did you get on wi' her? I should 'ave felt, myself, like the odd one over in a dog fight."

"Oh, Daisy left us soon after we met."

"An' when did she say all those witty things that made you laugh so much?"

"Cos she won't."

"Afterwards," sneered the office boy. "But I see how it was. Emma said she wouldn't ever meet you again unless you brought another feller for Daisy to bob onto. An' so you're tryin' to rope me in. But I ain't takin' any."

Jimmy flushed darkly.

"You wouldn't remember any good, any'ow," he replied. "She said a young gentleman."

"Wanted a change, I suppose—poor girl."

"But before the rule-in Jimmy's hands could get in its deadly work an important cough on the stairs announced the return from lunch of the head of the firm.

Why He Knew About the Apples.

From *Starn's Starched Magazine*.

Not long ago a man was about to purchase a barrel of apples at the establishment of a produce dealer. They appeared to be especially fine ones, but an old farmer, standing near by, whispered to him to look in the middle of the barrel. Then the would-be purchaser did, to find that with the exception of a layer at each end the apples were small and inferior.

"Ow much obliged," he said, turning to the old farmer.

"I've